

MAST IMPACT WEEK MEETING AGENDA

February 10-13, 2013
Holiday Inn Capitol
550 C Street S.W.
Washington D.C. 20024
1-202-479-4000 Hotel Number

Sunday February 10th 2013

5:30 pm – 7:30 pm **Reception & Early Registration Room - Discovery 1**
Sponsored by: **Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin**

6:30 pm **Midwest Area Health Board Members Meeting & Dinner – Capitol Bistro**
Sponsored by: **Derek Bailey – 7th Legacy Consulting** Holiday Inn Capitol

Monday February 11, 2013

MAST GENERAL ASSEMBLY – 1st Floor Holiday Inn Capitol – Columbia Ballroom

Coffee & room for the day – Sponsored by – **Dr. Comfort** (this company makes custom shoes for individuals with Diabetes)

7:00/8:30 am Breakfast – Provided by **St. Croix Tribe of WI** Columbia Ballroom Foyer

7:00 am Registration-1st Floor Holiday Inn Capitol – Columbia Ballroom

8:00 am Call to order – (President Stanley was unable to attend due to a family medical emergency so Vice Chairperson, Marvin Defoe conducted the meeting) – Columbia Ballroom

Opening Prayer: Song sung by Cathy Abramson and Jennifer McCloud, SSM Tribe; Frank Ettawageshik, United Tribes of Michigan Exec. Dir.

Opening Remarks: Vice Chairperson, Marvin Defoe

Roll Call – Secretary Robert Two Bears (Bad River, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac Du Flambeau, St. Croix, Ho-Chunk Nation, Oneida Nation, Sault Ste. Marie Tribe, Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, LTBB, Little River Band, Gun Lake Tribe, Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe, United Tribes of Michigan)

Elders Comments/Request

Executive Boards Comments – Vice-President Marvin Defoe

Secretary Robert Two Bears

Executive Director Scott R. Vele

Adopt, amend & approve agenda – **Sault Ste. Marie moves; LCO seconds**

Issues & Speakers:

8:30 am **Tribal Leaders Roundtable Discussion** (DOJ Rep Recommendation)

Two individuals were nominated to fill the DOJ Representative position: Melanie Benjamin from Mille Lacs Band (nom. by Mille Lacs; 2nd, Oneida Nation) and Jennifer McCloud from Sault Ste. Marie Tribe (nom by SSM Tribe; 2nd, LTBB). After both gave a short speech, a secret ballot election was conducted. Melanie Benjamin won the election.

10:00 am **Assistant Secretary Kevin Washburn BIA:** Gave updates on “land into trust” activities and the upcoming confirmation of the new Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewel. He also

spoke about Larry Roberts, Oneida, Deputy Assistant Secretary and Nedra Darling, Communications. He discussed the Patchak decision and explained that the Dept. of the Interior is no longer immune from suit once land is in trust; anyone with a problem with a piece of land that is put into trust has six years to contest it; he said that the Cobell Settlement involves more of the southwest tribes. He did a Q & A session with questions from the attendees on climate change/resources with tribes who want to either develop their resources or turn projects away that they don't want to have on their land.

10:40 am

Dante Desiderio NAFOA – Tribal Tax Reform Initiative

Spoke about NAFOA's upcoming conference in April. We were also given an update on the progress that the National Intertribal Tax Alliance has made on the four initiatives that they are focusing on:

- 1) Tax-Exempt Bond Authority
- 2) The IRS' General Welfare Exclusion & Tribal Government Programs and Benefits
- 3) State Taxation of Permanent Improvements to Tribal Trust Land
- 4) PACT Act/STOP Act Tobacco Compliance Issues

We were asked to push several issues during our visits to Capitol Hill in regards to taxes and tribes: fixing the issue of tribal trusts now being taxable, ensuring that tribal consultation is conducted and appropriate, mentioning the work of the Nat. Intertribal Tax Alliance and remembering to take a copy of the "leave behind" with us to the visits and leave those with the staff and/or legislators we are able to meet with.

11:30 am

Congressman Frank Lucas –Ok 3rd District

His district contains sixteen (16) tribes in Oklahoma; which is almost half of the thirty-eight (38) tribes in OK. He gave us a brief overview of his current activities and an overview of what the atmosphere is like on Capitol Hill, currently. He spoke about his work on a Farm Bill that he hopes will not only benefit tribes but all farmers in the country. In terms of the current atmosphere within Congress, he described how tenure effects what can get accomplished and how a high turn-over (which is what we have had for a while now in Congress) has a big impact on keeping momentum and knowledge going on a particular effort/piece of legislation. During his question and answer period, he was asked about sequestration and how or if that will have an effect on nutrition and commodity food programs. He said that he believes that the folks that work in those programs can safely "relax" a little about whether or not these programs will be safe if sequestration goes into effect. The tribes present were VERY happy about that news.

Noon

**Keynote Address & Luncheon – Chairman Ernie Stevens-NIGA
Columbia Ballroom**

Sponsored by: **Gun Lake Tribe/Tribal Council**

He began by recounting his personal history with MAST. He also spoke about his connection to the Ojibwe/Anishinaabe people; they took care of him well and many times and he has always been grateful for that. One of his beliefs is that "we must change policies before we can claim product." He said that we still have a lot of work to do to change the policies that govern us before we can say that we have fully succeeded. He introduced Jason Giles, Executive Director of National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA). Mr. Giles main topic was internet gaming. He made a very important statement that I feel is very true, "we (tribes) are ready to do internet gaming, but not at the expense of tribal sovereignty."

MIDWEST ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN TRIBES

IMPACT WEEK 2013

Monday February 11, 2013 Continued

- 1:00 pm **Dr. Yvette Roubideaux Director Indian Health Services**
Her presentation consisted of an update on the budgets related to the Indian Health Service and a Question and Answer session. She stated that there has been a 29% increase in the IHS budget over the last three years. There has also been an increase of 46% in the Contract Health budget. It was also mentioned that we are fortunate to have very strong support from the Obama Administration and from Congress. She did warn that if sequestration goes into effect, that we will see 804,000 fewer outpatient visits, among other cuts made to the budget. Dr. Roubideaux also made mention of a work group convening next week to establish recommendations on percent allocations. There were several MAST representatives that are going to be part of the work group so we will receive an update on what their recommendations were.
- 2:15 pm **Honorable Senator Al Franken – United States Senator, Minnesota**
Senator Franken spoke about his history with and support of Native peoples. He told several stories that centered around the inequities he sees in Indian Country compared to the rest of the United States. He spoke about visiting different Native communities, his motivation to REQUEST to be placed on the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, and his continued dedication to help improve the lives of Indian people.
- 2:45 pm **Richard Litsey Senate Finance Committee**
His main point was that tribes should remember to set up appointments with the finance committees of both branches of the legislature.
- 3:00 pm **Mr. Jack Thorpe Executive Director - Association on American Indian Affairs**
- 3:30 pm **Attorney Brian Pierson GK Firm – Legal Update/Renewable Energy Update**
See attachments
- 4:00 pm **Shoshana Beth Phillips Executive Director – Heritage of Healing**
See attachments
- 4:15 pm **Tribal Leaders Discussion and Direction - Resolution presentation & approval**
See attached Resolution
- 5:00/6:00 pm **Tribal Leaders Meet & Greet Reception** 21st Amendment Bar & Grill
Sponsored by: McGladrey LLP Holiday Inn Capitol

Tuesday February 12th, 2013

Coffee & Room for the day: McGladrey LLP

- 7:00 am Breakfast – Sponsored by **Gun Lake Tribe/Tribal Council** –Columbia Ballroom
- 8:15 am **Tribal Leaders Discussion and Direction- Resolution presentation & approval**
Continued discussion on prescription drug abuse issue and how MAST should proceed with combating this growing problem. The Oneida Nation agreed to make the next move by scheduling a meeting at a conference on cancer being held in Green Bay, Wisconsin on May 6 through 8, 2013. They already put together a draft agenda since yesterday when we talked about it during the first tribal leaders' comments period.
- 9:00 am **Mary Pavel, Staff Director of Senate Indian Affairs Committee**
Spoke about the Violence Against Women (VAWA) Act and thanked the tribes for their support. She said that her boss (Senator Maria Cantwell) is "purposeful" and that she doesn't just go to the Senate floor to "hear herself speak." She also talked about the Farm Bill, the United States Forest Service and the Senate Finance Committee.

- 9:30 am **Cathy Abramson Chairperson National Indian Health Board**
As the Chairwoman of NIHB, Cathy provided us with an update on the organizations many accomplishments. She also directed our attention to a leave behind packet that we could take with us to the Hill visits in regards to IHS issues, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians and the effects of Sequestration on Native health. We were also given
- 10:30 am **Mr. Chris Fluhr, Staff Director, House Indian Affairs Subcommittee**
He said that there are plans to reintroduce the American Indian Empowerment Act. He also stated that there IS a desire to give tribes the ability to give fee title to their land but still keep their "Indian Land" status. He said that they have already been approached by tribes offering to be the "pilot program" for this to see how it goes.
- 11:00 am **NARF Request – Address Tribal Leaders**
NARF stands for the "Native American Rights Fund." They asked if they could address the MAST meeting regarding the "Baby Veronica Case." We were told that a preliminary amicus brief is being drafted by NARF, that a former members of Congress brief is being drafted, that NCAI and NICWA are coordinating a collaborative amicus brief with citations of violations of ICWA in South Dakota and that NCAI, NICWA and NARF are absorbing the administrative costs to fight the case. They have also hired a public relations firm in order to catch up to the media coverage that the adoptive parents have had a jump on. They also are asking for continued support by tribes through donations because now that this case is being heard at the Supreme Court, it has enormous ramifications for all tribes across the country.
****Left for a lunch meeting with Lydia Hofer, our lobbyist, at the Capitol Hill Club to prep for the Hill visits scheduled for the afternoon.****
- 11:30 am **Chairman Terry Rambler - Intertribal Council of Arizona Chairman**
- Noon **Lunch – Congressman Markwayne Mullin-OK 2nd District**
Subcommittee on Indian and Alaskan Native Affairs
Sponsored by: **Mille Lacs Band/Tribal Council**
- 1:00 pm **Designate & confirm assignment(s) and group leaders for Hill visits.**
- 1:30 pm - 5:30 pm **Assigned Capitol Hill Group Visits meet with members of Congress**
- 5:00 pm – 7:00pm **The MIDWEST ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN TRIBES Invites you to join the Midwest Delegation in a reception on Capitol Hill**
House Agriculture Committee Hearing Room 1300
Longworth House Office Building
Sponsored by: Cottingham & Butler – Mr. Ben Butler Dubuque, IA

**MIDWEST ALLIANCE OF SOVEREIGN TRIBES
IMPACT WEEK 2013**

Wednesday February 13th 2013

Breakfast & Meeting in Discovery 1

7:30 am Breakfast - Sponsored by: **Saginaw Chippewa Tribal Council**

9:00 am **Meet & Greet At the White House w/Jodi Gillette & Charlie Galbraith
17th and New York Ave, the SW entrance to the White House**

During our meeting with Jodi Gillette, Senior Policy Advisor for Native American Affairs, White House Domestic Policy Council and Charles Galbraith, Associate Director for Intergovernmental Affairs at The White House, they focused on five major issues that the White House is currently working on where in which tribes can be of assistance: the current fiscal situation, gun violence/control, immigration, climate change and jobs creation. Jodi went into detail on each one of these topics and how they are/will effect tribes and our sovereignty. In relation to the gun control issue, Jodi thanked the Red Lake Nation for their participation at the roundtable hosted the week prior. As for immigration, she pointed out that it presents/will present significant issues for tribes on the north and south borders of the United States. In addition, immigration will be impacting businesses. She will keep tribes informed on how this issue develops. Another important point that she made was in regards to job creation and growing our tribal economies. She said that tribes would be wise to continue our tradition of focusing on youth. She likes to look at youth involvement as establishing "ladders of opportunity." We need to provide our youth with job training, higher education, scientific research exposure and education (especially related to climate change). In terms of growing our economies, she said that tribes should consider getting involved in exports and international trade. She also went into detail about the recent victory of the VAWA legislation without any of the Indian provisions being cut. But both of them feel that the House vote is going to be difficult to win. So, they encouraged us to keep VAWA at the forefront of lobbying efforts and support. One last piece of advice that the staff gave us was that we need to get to know the staff of the OMB Branch Examiners in regards to budget issues and how cuts (and increases) will effect tribes and the health and well-being of our people.

11:00 am **Capitol Hill Individual/Group Visits**

Noon - **(Meeting ends)**

I was extremely grateful to have been able to attend this event for the second time. I was definitely better prepared and was able to gain even more knowledge that will help me be a better legislator and advocate for our community. I want to thank the Tribe for allowing me to attend this important meeting and for the nomination by the Chairman as LTBB's Representative.

Respectfully submitted by,

*Winnay Wemigwase
LTBB Tribal Council*